

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on August 23, 2005. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the recitation of claim 3. Claims 3, 6, and 10 are accordingly cancelled, without prejudice to their subject matter. Claim 7 is amended to correct typographical errors. Also, claims 1 and 7 are amended to delete their recitations of aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydrides. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment, and no new issues are raised thereby. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment – in order to place the application into condition for allowance or into better condition for appeal – is respectfully solicited. With this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-9 are pending in the application.

Objection had been raised to claim 7. The present Amendment amends claim 7 as kindly suggested by the Examiner, thereby obviating this ground of appeal.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,643,986 (Ishikawa). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa. It is respectfully submitted that these rejections do not apply to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 in their present form. Specifically, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 do not read on the aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride embodiments disclosed in the Ishikawa reference, and none of the polyimidesilicone resins recited in claim 7 is obvious from the Ishikawa disclosure. Accordingly, the rejections over Ishikawa do not apply to the claims in their present form.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,340,684 (Hayase). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hayase does describe butanetetracarboxylic acid. However, Hayase does not teach that butanetetracarboxylic acid can be used alternatively with benzophenone tetracarboxylic acid.

Firstly, the description of butanetetracarboxylic acid in lines 25-26 of column 5 of Hayase contradicts other descriptions in the reference. In claims 1 and 2, the group “*a*” is defined as a tetravalent aromatic group. In column 5, lines 2-9 teach that:

“... *a* represents a tetravalent aromatic group and contains at least one benzene nucleus or naphthalene nucleus. Examples of *a* are ... a substituted or unsubstituted benzene nucleus, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthalene nucleus, and a substituted or unsubstituted polyphenyl nucleus having a maximum of five phenyl rings.

Secondly, if butanetetracarboxylic acid could be used, the patentee would not have recited in claim 1 that “*a* represents a tetravalent aromatic group”.

A person of ordinary skill in the art, faced with the Hayase disclosure in its entirety, would conclude that the mention therein of butanetetracarboxylic acid was an error. In any case, the Examiner has not identified any motivation arising from the Hayase reference to select the butanetetracarboxylic acid embodiment therefrom and to incorporate it into a thermosetting polyimidesilicone resin having all of the features of the present invention.

The polyimidesilicone resin presently claimed is characterized by a transmittance of 80% or higher in the wavelength region of from 400 nm to 700 nm, measured in the form of a film of 10 μ m thickness on a glass substrate of 1 mm thickness. This transmittance is such as to avoid interference with light absorption of a photopolymerization initiator or a reactive diluent, if used, so that a well-cured film is obtained. Furthermore, the present polyimide can be applied to articles such as optical devices, in which transmittance is critical. The colorlessness and transparency properties defined by the present claims is neither taught nor suggested by the Hayase reference.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 – as claim 8-10 – are patentable over all of the prior art of record.

Application No. 10/681,119
Amendment dated November 22, 2005
After Final Office Action of August 23, 2005

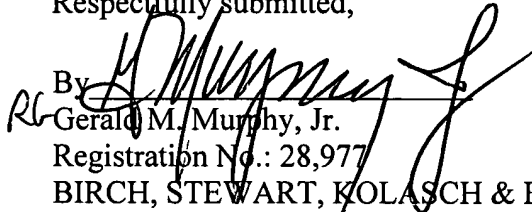
Docket No.: 4710-0101P

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2448, under Order No. 4710-0101P from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: November 22, 2005
23

Respectfully submitted,

By 
RG Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.
Registration No.: 28,977
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant